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1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the test sample is not cultured prior to
2 contacting with the capture reagent.

1 11. The method of claim 1, wherein the capture reagent is immobilized on a
2 solid support.

1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein the solid support is a microtiter dish.

1 13. The method of claim 11, wherein the capture reagent is immobilized on
2 the solid support prior to contacting the capture reagent with the test sample.

1 14. The method of claim 1, wherein the method can detect *B. anthracis* at
2 concentrations as low as about 10,000 cfu/ml.

1 15. The method of claim 14, wherein the method can detect *B. anthracis* at
2 concentrations as low as about 5,000 cfu/ml.

1 16. The method of claim 15, wherein the method can detect *B. anthracis* at
2 concentrations as low as about 1,800 cfu/ml.

1 17. The method of claim 1, wherein the detection of the surface array
2 protein is performed by contacting the surface array protein with a detection reagent that can
3 bind to the surface array protein.

1 18. The method of claim 17, wherein the detection reagent comprises an
2 antibody which binds to surface array protein.

1 19. The method of claim 17, wherein the detection reagent binds to a
2 different epitope of the surface array protein than does the capture reagent.

1 20. The method of claim 17, wherein the detection reagent comprises a
2 detectable label.

1 21. The method of claim 20, wherein the detectable label is selected from
2 the group consisting of a radioactive label, a fluorophore, a dye, an enzyme, and a
3 chemiluminescent label.

1 22. A kit for detecting the presence or absence of *Bacillus anthracis* in a
2 sample, the kit comprising:

3 a solid support upon which is immobilized a capture reagent that can
4 bind to a surface array protein of *Bacillus anthracis*; and
5 a detection reagent which binds to the surface array protein.

1 23. The kit of claim 22, wherein the solid support is a microtiter dish.

1 24. The kit of claim 22, wherein the capture reagent is an antibody.

25. The kit of claim 24, wherein the antibody is a recombinant polyclonal
antibody.

26. The kit of claim 24, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

27. The kit of claim 22, wherein the capture reagent is a mixture of
monoclonal and polyclonal antibody preparations.

1 28. The kit of claim 22, wherein the kit further comprises written
2 instructions for using the kit to determine whether a test sample contains *B. anthracis*.

1 29. The kit according to claim 22, wherein the kit further comprises a
2 positive control that comprises a polypeptide that comprises an antigenic determinant of a *B.*
3 *anthracis* surface array protein.

1 30. The kit according to claim 29, wherein the surface array protein
2 comprises an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

1 31. A recombinant polyclonal antibody preparation that specifically binds to
2 an antigenic determinant of a surface array protein of *Bacillus anthracis*.

1 32. The recombinant polyclonal antibody preparation of claim 31, wherein
2 the surface array protein comprises an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

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